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Notes

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THE PRESENT INDICATIVE IN PROTASIS

The use of the present indicative with future force is well recognized in some constructions, as, for instance, in clauses introduced by *antequam* and *priusquam;* but there seems to be a very general misconception regarding the quite similar use in *si*-clauses. Thus, a new and excellent textbook dealing with cognate languages makes a comparison with the Latin conditional sentence in the following terms: "The present indicative with future force, which is frequent in early Latin legal inscriptions and is found occasionally in Latin poetry (e. g., Verg. *Aen.* iii. 606) . . . ." The impression that the use of the form *si est* for future conditions is avoided in the best prose is due, in part at least, to the misleading treatment in our grammars. One of the best of these cites a single case (Sall. *B. C.* 58. 9), and adds that this use "is very common in the comic poets, very rare in Cicero and Caesar, but more common later." Another grammar, very widely used, quotes the same Sallust passage, adding also Verg. *Aen.* iii. 606. That such treatment is quite inadequate will at once appear from the following Ciceronian examples:

Cat. i. 4. 8: Num negare audes? Quid taces? Convincam, si *negas*.

Cat. ii. 3. 5: qui si hic *permanent*, mementote non tam exercitum illum esse nobis quam hos . . . . pertimescendos.

Cat. ii. 5. 11: Proinde . . . . aut quiescant aut, si et in urbe et in eadem mente *permanent*, ea, quae merentur, expectent.

Cat. ii. 10. 23: Qui nisi *exeunt*, nisi *pereunt*, ... scitote hoc in re publica seminarium Catilinarum futurum.

Mil. 36. 99: Nec vero, si mihi *eriperis*, reliqua est illa . . . . querella . . . . Non enim inimici mei te mihi eripient, sed amicissimi.

Phil. i. 11. 27: primum deprecor, ne irascatur, deinde, si hoc non *impetro*, peto, ut sic irascatur ut civi.

Other examples from Cicero's orations are as follows:

si ostendo, *Quinct.* 13. 42; si volunt, *Sex. Rosc. Amer.* 48. 139; si planum facio, *Q. Rosc. Com.* 14. 41; si volumus, *Verr.* II. i. 15. 38; si ostendo, si doceo, *ibid.* iii. 46. 111; si ostendo, *ibid.* 48. 114; si doceo, *ibid.* 63. 148; si prospicitis,

ibid. 97. 225; nisi recuperatis, *ibid.* 97. 226; si suscipis, *ibid.* iv. 37. 81; nisi traditur, *ibid.* 39. 85; si doces, *ibid.* v. 18. 47; si doceo, *ibid.* 19. 50; si non optinemus, *Caec.* 27. 75; si doceo, si ostendo, *Cluent.* 23. 64; nisi prospicitis, *De leg. agr.* i. 9. 26; si ostendo, si doceo, *ibid.* iii. 1. 3; nisi providetis, *Cat.* iv. 2. 4; si doceo, *Flacc.* 13. 31; si conservatis, sin eripitis, *ibid.* 42. 106; sin rescinduntur, *De dom.* 1. 2; si collocatis, si non redditur, si manet, *ibid.* 37. 100; si retinetur, *Sest.* 22. 50; si conservatis, *Cael.* 32. 80; si persequitur, si succeditur, *De prov. cons.* 8. 19; si depono, *ibid.* 8. 20; si cedo, sin antepono, *Planc.* 2. 6; si defendo et doceo, *ibid.* 7. 17; si docet, *Scaur.* 9. 18; nisi cavetis, *Rab. Post.* 7. 18; si manent, *Phil.* ii. 36. 92.; nisi rescinduntur, *ibid.* v. 4. 11; si non possumus, *ibid.* vii. 5. 14; si volumus, si omittimus, *ibid.* vii. 6. 19; nisi prospicitis, *ibid.* vii. 8. 25; si languescimus, *ibid.* viii. 2. 4; si adfert, *ibid.* xi. 10. 25; si oppetenda est, *ibid.* xii. 12. 30; si praecipit, *ibid.* xiii. 3. 6; si possumus, *ibid.* 3. 7; (Antonius), si patiuntur *ibid.* 17. 35.

This use of the present tense is common in Cicero's letters also; a few examples will suffice:

Att. v. 15. 1: vos desidero. Sed feram, ut potero, sit modo annuum. Si *prorogatur*, actum est.

Att. viii. 3. 2: Accedit illud. Si *maneo* et illum comitatum optimorum . . . . civium *desero*, cadendum est in unius potestatem.

Att. xii. 29. 2: Si hoc non *assequimur* (a Lamia non puto posse), Damasippi experiendum est.

Att. xii. 40. 4: De hortis Scapulanis hoc videtur effici posse . . . . ut praeconi subiciantur. Id nisi *fit*, excludemur.

Other examples from *Att.* are as follows:

si relinquo, iii. 13. 2; si mittit, v. 18. 1; si non decedo, vi. 1. 14; sin vincuntur, vii. 3. 2; sin refert, vii. 7. 4; si non obtinet, vii. 9. 3; si manet, sin discedit, vii. 12. 2; si cedit, vii. 12. 4; si manet, viii. 14. 2; si creantur, ix. 9. 3; (Atticus), si manet, sin relinquit, ix. 10. 5; (Atticus), si remanent, si discedunt, ix. 10. 7; nisi vincit, sin vincit, x. 7. 1; si trahitur, x. 8. 2; si propero, si cunctor, x. 8. 5; si perseverant et obtinent, xi. 7. 3; si invenis, xii. 37. 2; (Antonius) si praebes, xiv. 13 A. 2.

The cases cited in this paper do not represent the result of a careful and systematic search through even the parts of Cicero here represented. Such a search through the whole field would greatly increase the length of the list of examples. It would therefore seem that the construction under discussion is in frequent use in the best prose, and that our grammars should take that fact into consideration when describing the Latin usage.

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